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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2011

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Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela Names Leadership Team of the New Mexico Border Authority

SANTA FE — New Mexico Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary-designate Jon Barela announced today that Jim Creek was named executive director and William “Bill” Mattiace was named deputy director of the New Mexico Border Authority.

Jim Creek has been with the Border Authority since 2002, developing and managing border infrastructural projects. He previously was employed as a planner and civil engineering administrator and worked on projects throughout New Mexico and along the U.S./Mexico border, including five years as Las Cruces regional manager for Engineers Inc., a civil engineering consulting firm. Creek also has significant experience in the public sector including service as the executive director of the South Central Council of Governments in Las Cruces, and environmental services director for Doña Ana County. His professional interests include water rights and resources, border infrastructural development, and transportation planning.

“Jim has a solid background in border development and extensive experience with the Border Authority,” Secretary Barela said.

Creek is a retired U.S. Army colonel and Vietnam veteran. As an intelligence officer, he was assigned to several U.S. embassies in Latin America. His understanding of the diplomatic process and the supporting governmental structure provides significant insight to the Border Authority.

Bill Mattiace is the former mayor of Las Cruces, serving in that capacity from 2003-07. He currently serves as chairman for the city/county regional Vision 2040 Advisory Committee, and is a former member of the New Mexico Partnership and Spaceport Community Advisory Committee.

“Bill has been at the forefront of border issues, economic development and job creation,” Secretary Barela said. “His decades of community service, his time as mayor of Las Cruces, experience in working on bi-national issues and knowledge of southern New Mexico are valuable assets to the Border Authority.”

Most recently, Mattiace has served on the founding board, and as chairman, of HonorFlight of Southern New Mexico. He was selected by the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce as 2010’s “Citizen of the Year.”

The New Mexico Border Authority is an executive branch state agency that provides leadership in the development of the state's international ports of entry as well as serving as the governor's advisor and point of contact for those interested in opportunities at the ports of entry. The agency also facilitates new infrastructure, trade opportunities, job opportunities, job training capabilities and many other activities that contribute to development of a productive economy along the New Mexico border.

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